



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Robert F. McDonnell
Governor

June 15, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, Room: 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Regulation of broadband through the Communications Act

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

The economic health of the Commonwealth of Virginia owes a great deal to the innovation and growth of the Internet. That's why I have been working closely with Secretary of Technology Jim Duffey to bring its technological and economic benefits to Virginia.

One of the key components of my economic platform is to make the Commonwealth a leader in start-up business on the East Coast, if not for the nation as a whole. Through our efforts, Virginia has become a welcoming place for new businesses and technology start-ups. In fact, a recent United States Chamber of Commerce report gives the Commonwealth high marks for growth performance, business-friendly tax and regulatory climates, and support of entrepreneurship and innovation.

Government regulation of broadband would threaten the progress we have made in Virginia. For broadband, to my knowledge there have been no market failures or widespread abuses by network operators that call for government intervention. Instead, Virginia and the rest of the nation currently enjoy the innovative products, competitive pricing and sustained investment from private industry that a free market provides. The regulatory uncertainty brought by the recent proposal to usher broadband services under Title II of the Communications Act could sharply curtail investment and innovation, and consumers and businesses alike would suffer.

I am committed to a pro-business climate for existing and emerging industries that will bring growth and investment to the Commonwealth. The broadband environment would be harmed by unnecessary government intervention. I urge you to closely consider the potentially negative effects that government regulation of broadband would have on economic development and job creation for Virginians and all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert F. McDonnell".

Robert F. McDonnell